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ODYSSEY

CENTRE OF CRIMINOLOGY

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ODYSSEY NEWSLETTER POLICY

The policy of the Odyssey Newsletter is to bring to the attention of the public what we, the members of the Odyssey Group and other contributing authors, believe to be gross injustices perpetrated by the Canadian Correctional Service, Canada's Justice System, and all other services related to the correction field.

The views expressed in the Newsletter are those of the contributing authors with the full support of the Odyssey Group members. They are not the views of the Canadian Correctional Service, nor are they necessarily those of other prisoners.

The Odyssey Group is a group of long time prisoners who feel that prisons and the justice system in Canada can be changed by non-violent means. It is our purpose to do all in our power to bring about those changes.

Public apathy can only be combatted through education. Hopefully, this Newsletter will serve that purpose.

Sincerely yours,

The editor.

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EDITORIAL

The idiot who coined the phrase "never look a gift horse in the mouth" quite obviously never had any experience with the Solicitor-General's Department. If he had, he would have soon discovered that most gift horses are, in reality, Trojan horses. One of those Trojan horses is the new 'Family Visiting Program' being promoted in Canada.

A gift is never a gift that carries a hidden price tag with it. The price tag on these visits is our souls and by the looks of it, we just might be willing to pay the price. We already have in regard to our Brothers in S.H.U. With all of our meally mouthed rhetoric about how we always come to the defense of the prisoners in lock-up, we have already come to accept these visits with the men of S.H.U. excluded. As prisoners, it shouldn't make us very proud of ourselves.

Perhaps some of us have forgotten that every fight that put those men in S.H.U. was a fight that was fought for all of us. We should be very thankful for what those men have done for us rather than rejecting them for the the first carrot the authorities have offered us.

And just what are we rejecting them for? A 'Family Visiting Program" that should be rejected out of hand. Can we, as human beings, allow our families to be put up for sale? Be made prostitutes for the sake of our lust? What else can it be called but lust? Sex without dignity can be nothing else but lust and there can be no dignity in these visits with the obscene criteria demanded by the authorities being what it is.

These very sanctimonious people promoting this nonsense have the audacity to claim the program is to keep families together. Are we to believe that every prisoner in S.H.U. is without family or loved ones? Do they no longer wish to keep our families together if we dare collect an offence report? Nonsense, they are selling us our families and the price demanded is total obedience.

Perhaps the prisoners believe they can live with the rules now in existence and are willing to do so in order to spend forty-three hours with their families. But are we really naive enough to believe that this program is being promoted to stand by itself? Do we really believe there will be no new rules we are going to have to follow once we have surrendered up our families as hostages? Any prisoner with that much confidence in the penitentiary service, hasn't really paid all that much attention to the history of past programs. The name of the game is 'mind control' and that's what they are aiming at.

One lesson that must be learned by all prisoners, no matter what prison they might find themselves in, whether they be men or women, when you cooperate with the authorities in implementing any new program, you are cooperating on their terms. They do not promote programs that have no beneficial effects for themselves.

Family visiting is such a program that is certain to benefit the authorities much more than it will prisoners. Why not? We have accepted them on their terms. Terms that are so obscene, they should be banned by the Provincial censor boards. Certainly they have banned much less obscenity.

Free association with our families should be a natural right, not a privilege granted by officials. Until such time as it is instituted as a natural right, we should follow the lead set by our Brothers in Kent Penitentiary and reject these visits outright.

The only acceptable terms for prisoners are the inclusion of all prisoners in the program without any strings attached. Without the prisoners of S.H.U. included, there shouldn't even be any basis for debate. Nor should the Penitentiary Service or the Solicitor-General's Department have any say about who should be

eligible for visiting. Personal relationships cannot, and should not be legislated.

Neither prisoners nor anyone else should have to legitimize a perfectly normal relationship by fitting some sick criteria. Pre-Freudian bigots should not be allowed to play God by passing judgement on men or women who just happen to love prisoners.

Prisoners had better learn that leaving prison is not the whole answer. Leaving prison a human being is the only answer.

If we allow our families to be humiliated, if we sell out our Brothers in S.H.U., if we sell out our unmarried Brothers and Sisters just to satisfy our lust, leaving prison a human being will be an impossibility.

Tommy Smith

When a political ideology is universally accepted by the elite, when the people who 'define situations' embrace and venerate it, this means that it is high time free men were fighting it.

Pierre Trudeau

The heavier the sentence, the more desparate the prisoner. I guess we owe thanks to the Parole Board for the violence in prisons today.

If justice really means caging a human being in a specially built prison within a prison, then justice is evil and must be destroyed.

TO ALL FRIENDS & MEMBERS OF ODYSSEY

It is with a most sincere and humble thank-you that your confidence in me led me to the role of Odyssey chairman. I actually searched both my dictionary and thesaurus for a word to more strongly express the way I feel; honored; but could not find one.

It goes without saying that following Ron Van Bree will not be a simple task. He has left an impression in my mind that will unquestionably effect my thinking for years to come regardless of whether I am a free man or legal hostage. Many people looked up to Ron but he did not look down to or at them. This of course is a scientific impossibility but it seemed Ron is a real pro at tackling the impossible.

Back with us this time is Tommy Smith, the old patriarch of Millhaven. The rumor that he was Canada's first prisoner is absolutely false. He once told me he was third. While that may or may not be entirely correct, it is a fact that Tommy was one of those welcomed to Millhaven through the gauntlet after the 1971 Kingston riot. He is also remaining as editor of our newsletter, a job requiring incalculable energy and unselfishness.

Rod Boisclair, our former secretary, may be leaving us soon and his talents will be missed by all of us. Rod has served as chairman as well. He is a true work-horse. Armed only with a typewriter and a will to seek justice, Rod has quietly fought many battles with the one thought in mind; it should be a prisoner's right! Both Rod and Ronnie were soldiers of justice. We hope they remain as such.

With Dennis Boxall stepping into Rod's secretarial shoes, it is evident that we are in for a pleasant surprise. Dennis is the quiet fellow who lets his

fingers do the talking (sometimes they shout). Dennis is not to be underestimated for a moment, and I don't doubt for a second that he wont fail us in his very important task as secretary.

We are the Odyssey Group. We are, I feel,a legal fighting machine; one which is not only non-violent but anti-violent as well. Should one of the components of any machine malfunction or cease to function, quite often the machine becomes inadequate or even useless.

We all are part of that fighting machine. If there is in fact deadwood within our midst we are all at fault. Deadwood to the right craftsman can become a thing of beauty; of use to somebody. I aim to make everyone connected with the Odyssey useful. I want to make you, the members and friends of Odyssey proceed to be part of the fight against lack of justice, lack of human recognition, and lack of rights.

Perhaps the low man on any totem pole is the chairperson, president or manager. After all who does the 'real' work? Who gets the job done; the one who delegates responsibility or the one who accepts it? No captain can run a ship alone and the captain is only as good as his crew. My strongest asset in chairing the group is that in fact my crew is top notch and eager to fight.

Personally I take the chair's position to be an absolute challenge. I do hope that I can fulfill your expectations of me as a good chairman. Trusting that Odyssey will be just that - an adventure, I remain.

Respectfully

James Conroy

Odyssey Group Chairman

LETTER TO PAUL

July 1, 1980.

Hello my friend:

The year is half gone and in 2 weeks I'll be able to say that I'm doing my last year.

Maybe when I break the year barrier the impact of realization that I'm on short time will come into focus. What day will it be that I wake up and start the day by thinking that I'm on short time? Is there such a magic day? I wonder if it tickles!!!

You and I have experienced those magic days in the past and still I can't recall the sensations of approaching freedom. The last time I experienced short-time was back in 1964. I was released from the Guelph Reformatory at that time, after serving a sentence of 18 & 6 for B&E. I didn't make the 6 months parole so at the time of my release, I had $20.00 and the clothes I had worn to prison about 20 months previous to my January 10th, 1965, release date.

There I was, no place to go and no job. All I had was what I had waited 20 months to get, my freedom.

I got a welding job in Guelph the day I was released. I went to a large firm and asked to see the personnel manager to whom I told that I had less than $20.00 and that I was just released from the reformatory, that I could weld and that I needed a job. I got a welding job.

My freedom lasted for 2 years before I was sentenced

to 7 years for B & E with intent.

Sure I made parole after 28 months but that's not being free. I was on parole for 15 months before receiving a 12 year sentence for attempted murder. Now after 10 years of being caged, I'm about to begin my last year before being released on a mandatory parole Leash. Not much of a freedom to get excited about. They will be forcing me to accept release under conditions that are contrary to my free will. I either take my 6 years of earned good-time remission under their conditions or I can stay in prison and do my 6 years of earned remission. A choice I'm not looking forward to. I don't like having to make decisions under duress. I'm just stubborn enough to reject their 'freedom on a leash' proposition.

With the inflation rate being what it is, it should cost the tax-payer ¼ million dollars to keep me that extra 6 years. I could never steal that much, (based on past facts), so society and I both lose, but then that's why there are prisons (based on past facts). When the time comes for me to make the big decision concerning my release on mandatory parole or staying to do my good-time, I'll be looking your way Paul for moral support.

In the evening of April 20, there were problems in S.H.U. You know, the prison within a prison where men are put when the abnormality of prison existence produced abnormality in their behaviour. In other words; behaviour that was threatening to the prison system.

Anyway, when we came back from the show in the gym, the word was that a prisoner in S.H.U. had been

shot, that dogs, gas, and physical force was being used to put the prisoners in their cells in a unit that was on fire. We could see the smoke rising into the sky from that unit.

Naturally the fellows wouldn't want to be caught in their cells so the cell doors were barricaded open. The Warden informed the prisoners' committee that the doors could stay open until the facts of what had happened in S.H.U. were verified by a representative from the range that was gassed.

Shortly after 11:00 PM. the prisoners' committee informed us that what we heard was just a rumour and that the representatives from S.H.U. clarified that it was an internal matter and that it was being handled by their own representatives. We went back to our cells to be locked up for the night at the usual time of 11:20 but the doors weren't closed until shortly after 1:00 AM. The chairman of the prisoners' committee and a number of other prisoners went and asked the guard in the tower to close their doors but he said he had to wait until clearance came from his supervisors to close any doors.

Well you can imagine our surprise the next day when we see a communique from the Warden saying that we had displayed irresponible behaviour and he had to assert discipline in order to insure responsible behaviour. He postphoned the socials for a 6 week period during which time the population had to display exemplary behaviour in order to have the group socials reinstated.

The Odyssey Group was to have their anniversary social that coming weekend, so it had to be aborted. A bitter pill to swallow after all the work and preparations that had been invested in the planning of the anniversary.

I know you must be wondering why the Warden directed sanctions against the self-help rehabilitative groups for the population's reaction to a situation that was not initiated by anyone in the population. The cell doors were left open on his orders. Besides, if there was a serious breech of discipline, then everyone should have been charged and those charges heard by the independant judge in disciplinary court and, if found guilty by the judge, he could affix what he considered to be appropriate punishment.

The socials have been reinstated now after 6 weeks of exemplary behaviour. Guess what happened during those 6 weeks.

A couple prisoners swallowed such things as razor blades, a scissors and a fork. Another prisoner slashed himself, and two prisoners cut their testicles off. But there's been no disruption in the internal programs of this prison. I guess the population have adequately displayed responsible and exemplary behaviour from an administrative perspective.

I wonder if I'll miss these exciting times when I hit the bricks. I'm being trained for society by the example the law enforcement officers are setting by their conduct and attitude. No wonder the rehabilitation "treatment" is so successful.

Have you heard the good news?? The Federal Court of Canada has ruled that it is illegal to skin-frisk prisoners as a blanket procedure. Reasonable and probable grounds have to strongly indicate that the prisoner <u>is</u> in possession. You no doubt recall that previously skin-frisks were standard procedure, well the Federal Court of Canada has said that the standard procedure is illegal.

Of course, the ruling hasn't actually changed anything Last week, a prisoner returning from a security non-contact visit was skin-frisked. Looks like skin-frisks have been steeped up rather than stopped. Next week or any week there will be a number of prisoners charged with being disrespective to a correctional officer. I always thought that respect had to be earned.

Of course, you know that your medical treatment was outlined in the medical and psychiatric abuse brief that was submitted by the Odyssey Group. Well I wanted to let you know that the issue has not been abandoned. Professor Allan Manson, from the Correctional Law Project at Queen's University is still very much on top of the brief to ensure that the medical treatment received by you will not be repeated.

You'll also be pleased to note that your name and some of your characteristics have been mentioned by your friends when we get to reminising events and laughs from situations that weren't always that funny at the time.

Well Paul, I have to sign off for now. I'll be writing you again in a couple months. You will always be remembered my friend.

I'll be seeing you,

a friend.

REALITY

The whistle blew, signaling me to get out of bed and start another day. Still groggy from sleep, I rise, and mechanically start my morning routine. The shuffling of feet, the sound of running water, the usual sounds heard in the dorm at 5:30 AM. Somehow this day seemed different. At 6:00 the breakfast door is unlocked, we all file out to go to breakfast. As always, I pause a few moments just outside the door. The dew still glistens on the grass. The air is cool against my skin. It's always a welcome from the stiffling air and atmosphere of being locked in a building with 80 other women. As I approach the dining room, I look over the horizon at the sun rise. Beautiful pastel colors are swirled across the sky. The glow of red, orange, and yellow seem to reach out and touch you, sending a warm feeling all through your body. But as I looked dreamily at the sky, where the sun was peeking out from behind the trees, a cold and frightening sight came into view. A cold grey 10 foot fence, with 8 rows of barbed wire crowning it, seemed to block out all the beauty of the morning. At that moment, the sky seemed to have turned into grey and blackish blue clouds, swirling with all the furry of the devil himself. My stomach churned at the sight. Suddenly all the peaceful thoughts that were going through my mind vanished. I was feeling fear, anger, and pain all at the same time. I wanted to run away, to wash my mind of the thoughts I was thinking. Desperately trying to bring back the serenity I had felt only moments ago. But somehow I knew that this was the feelings I had been fighting to surpress for so long. For 10 months I had viewed the same section of the compound each morning. Seeing only the beauty

of the morning sun. Not allowing myself to see the fence that keeps me a prisoner day after day. I knew at that very moment, that it was time to face facts. I am in prison. I am to live here for the next 20 years, at the very least. I can no longer surpress the feelings that I feared and struggled for so long to ignore. The grass, that only a moment before looked so beautiful to me, seemed to shrivel up before my eyes and turn brown. The cool air, that I used to appreciate, seemed to chill me to the bone. I walked on in a daze. It had finally happened. It was time to face facts... This is Reality!

Dharlene F. Moore

It must be so; such suffering must needs be borne
Twice; once in the body and once in the soul.

Sophocles

I had a vision of freedom, but then sadly realized that no one could ever be free as long as men are confined in S.H.U.

It is sweet to be foolish at times.

Voltaire

TRUTH OR FALLACY??

I have been listening lately to a lot of arguments for family visiting, both for it and some against it. The truth of the matter is that it's a progra that will work, but I'm wondering for who?

It will work wonderfully for the married man who has a wife and family but then what do you do for the offender who doesn't fall under the provisions set down by Solicitor-General Kaplan? I wonder when he implemented this program if he really had the families of prisoners in mind and does he really want to keep families together, or is this just another experiment by the Corrections Service?

We know that everything they've tried in the past has been a hopeless failure. They said that they would start with one trailer and then maybe add another later on. Well if they follow their previous policies, I doubt whether the second trailer will ever materialize. They promised us a minimum wage and instead gave us a few pennies. They promised that there would be no more involuntary transfers, but we are still forced to take the Federal Justice System to court.

I say that Solicitor-General Kaplan and the people that serve under him are just as much responsible for the violence and tensions caused in these institutions as any prisoner in here.

I hope, for once, that the program they have instituted does work because you can take a man's freedom, and sometimes a man's dignity, but when you start playing games with the people we love, wives, children, and family, I want people to know that that's one last living hope we have. We may be prisoners serving time, but first and foremost we are living breathing human beings. This is my concern, I hope it is yours.

Kenneth Collison

CORPORATE CRIME

On September 21st, the Odyssey Group held their anniversary in the Chapel in Millhaven Penitentiary. Although our first guest speaker was unable to attend, we had placed her presentation on video the previous Tuesday.

Her talk influenced this article immensely and having to give credit where credit is due, I'd like to introduce her.

She is Professor Laureen Snider, an Assistant Professor of Sociology with four years tenure at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. She obtained her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. She has written extensively and is credited with being one of North America's leading authorities on Corporate Crime.

Professor Snider has been a member of longstanding in the Odyssey Group and last October, taught a course entitled "Sociology of Penal Systems" to prisoners within this prison. She has arranged for approximately forty-five of her students at Queen's University, some of whom have become members of the Odyssey Group and attended our anniversary, to attend seminars conducted by the Odyssey Group discussing the various aspects of the Canadian Penal System from the prisoners' point of view.

From feedback received, this has been most beneficial to all concerned. Too many of today's administrators only know about prisoners from what they have read or been taught. Few have actually talked with a prisoner on a personal or non-professional basis. Where other people have been talking for years about having students, the future judges, lawyers, criminologists, prison administrators, etc. serve a certain term or "internship" in prison, she has offered her students the chance to review a living textbook on prisons.

Professor Snider's topic, Corporate Crime, is not one you hear about very often. Why? According to statistics very few of those charged ever receive any sanctions. Even then, the judicial system seems to take the view that the mere fact that a person is convicted of a crime, especially those who are "respected pillars of the community" is punishment enough. In essence, the embarrassment felt is punishment enough.

" ... these crimes are less likely to be full time occupations...most corporate criminals see themselves predominately as executives. The fact that they engage in corporate crime on the side is seen by them, if they define corporate crime, which they often don't, as something very apart, not their real occupation. This means that they don't get what sociologists call 'a criminal self concept.' They don't come to think of themselves as criminal types."

Between the years 1951-72, there was an average of 4 people or corporations charged under the Combines Investigation Act, or a total of 96 cases.

In prisons today, there are men and women serving prison terms of years for crimes which netted them less than $200.00. Of the 96 corporate cases, only one has resulted in a prison term.

What about all those people adversely affected by such things as air, water, or land pollution? What of the children who are born deformed because of some chemical waste in their mother's drinking water? What of those who develop cancer or some other fatal desease as a result of the chemical additives in the food they eat? Which is worse, the man who has an argument with his wife and ends up killing her, or the man who sits at the head of a corporation which pumps deadly gasses into the atmosphere, knowing full well that they will kill, or at best shorten life spans, all in the name

of the almighty dollar? Who should receive the full force of the law?

There is a problem with this last question "who should receive the full force of the law?" Who makes the laws? What are the purposes of laws?

Idealists would say that the law is made to uphold the rights, privileges, and liberties of all, and to keep peace and order in the land. The Toronto Police Force has a motto on the side of their police cars - "To Serve And Protect." Who? Are they serving and protecting the average citizen on the street? Sure, when a property crime is committed against you, chances are the perpetrator is caught and sentenced to prison. Does that get your television set back? In some cases yes, but in most the answer is no.

When a corporation overcharges for their product and are caught, do you get your money back? No! And you don't even get the satisfaction of seeing the ones responsible punished.

The corporations make laws which their police forces enforce to protect themselves.

Which would I get more time for, a crime against a lower or middle-class individual involving a few hundred dollars which, most likely, that person cannot afford, or a crime against a big corporation such as Brinks, who can afford to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars. If you answer the latter, you're right. Is that common sense? I think it's nonsense.

If a corporation were to be convicted of a corporate crime, who would pay for it? You, the consumer would. Any fine received would be but an added expense with which the corporation would justify an increase in cost of their product. So, with corporate crime, the

consumer is hurt twice; once when the initial crime is committed, and again when they pay their fine should they receive one. Naturally, the consumer also pays the millions of dollars incurred by the corporation for their legal fees.

So the final question is this, who are the criminals? Are they the ones whose crimes are really insignificant, the one who the corporation abhors and focuses the attention on? Or are they the law makers, the ones who focus the attention on us while in the background raking in millions of dollars and laughing at you because you were just "taken."

J.R. Boisclair

That government is best which governs not at all; and when men are prepared for it, that will be the kind of government which they will have.

Thoreau

If a relationship is not based on cooperation and equality, it shouldn't exist at all. Neither the role of master nor that of servant should appeal to a civilized human being.

Here I am a barbarian; for men understand me not.

Ovid

PRIVATE EXTENDED FAMILY VISITS

"Allowing convicts conjugal visits - during which their wives and children could periodically spend a weekend with them ..." is the opening sentence of a booklet prepared by the Women's group of the Kingston John Howard Society.

Anyone from another planet reading this would marvel at a country where there were no female prisoners - only male. And as they read through the next 14 pages they could be excused for drawing this conclusion, for nowhere is there any reference to a female convict, her needs, or her family problems. This has to be more than the usual imperfect use of the masculine pronoun. This, in fact, illustrates just one of the many gross insensitivities inherent in the Canadian prison system. Because women prisoners represent only a fraction of the total prison population, why bother? However, women prisoners also have marriage partners, children, parents, relatives and friends, and by the very nature of their upbringing, they are usually closer to their families, and particularly to their children. But, why bother? Let's talk about conjugal rights for male prisoners only.

Well, let's talk about it! Why, in the first place, use the term "conjugal visits" which suggests the sexual aspects of marriage. Why not use the more frequently suggested term, "extended family visits", which would emphasize the family aspect while de-emphasizing the disparaging attitude introduced into this debate by some top officials.

It should first be recognized that the need for such family visits would not be taking on such monumental importance were we to reject the statement " the prison service anticipates that the trend toward longer

sentences will continue after Parliament voted to end the death penalty..." Must we always accept the unacceptable? We now know that the demoralization caused by imprisonment is in direct proportion to the length of time served. Much fuss is made about the failure of so-called rehabilitation programs, and about recidivism which maintains a steady average of approximately 85%. But, little is known about those members of the former Solicitor-General Warren Allmand's committee, who insisted that the 25 year alternative to the death penalty was "absurd", because it simply could not and would not work, and were then dropped from the committee. Four years later 114 prisoners are serving 25 year sentences in Canadian prisons, with no end in view.

Knowing all this, must we unquestionably accept the 25 year alternative (with corresponding increases in the 10, 15, 20 year sentences which go unmentioned) as if it were the word of God, and then proceed to discuss the feasibility of conjugal visiting as if it were the only alternative! This is more like placing the cart before the horse. Instead, let's have done with inhuman sentencing practices, and only then can we proceed intelligently to discuss the humanizing of the remaining incarceration period.

However, like every other area of our lives these days - while keeping an eye on the long term objectives, like staying alive as governments vie with each other to sell arms and nuclear devices calculated to destroy us all - at a profit - we are faced with the reality of the present moment. People are being imprisoned for longer periods of time, and therefore we are obliged to ensure that they survive the mind-boggling bureaucratic games - the long months and years held in solitary confinement, and the inadequate delivery of health care, to name just a few. Within this context, obviously, we should support the extended private family visit program.

Discussing this subject last October with certain high officials in Kingston, the following points were debated:

(I record the answers offered by the writer).

"What do we do for the guy who isn't married? Do we bring in his girl friend? What do we do for the homosexual?"

Answer: Quite simple: Allow the prisoners themselves to organize and monitor this project. They can then select the partners they wish to invite. After all, it's nobody's business who their partner is. Assuming everyone will have to pass through tight security, that is all the prison administration needs concern itself about.

"Would it not be another way for visiters to smuggle contraband, such as weapons or drugs into a prison?"

Answer: The same safeguards could be used as exist for present open contact visits. Prisoners themselves are already skin frisked before and after open visits, in maximum security prisons, so what difference is there between a 4 hour and a 48 hour visit, in this respect. Anyway, no one has yet come up with the answer to how contraband gets into prisons when there are only closed, non-contact visits, or rather, no one in authority is prepared to disclose their findings in such instances.

"For somebody who needs it two or three times a week, what's he going to do (with only one conjugal visit every few months)?"

Answer: No one needs this kind of obscenity - least of all a prisoner who has been sentenced to pass 10 to 25 years in an abnormal environment, deprived of love and contact with family and friends. No one asks prison officials 'how many times a week they need it.' To date, prisoners have generally displayed a willingness to cooperate with any regulations which will permit them to maintain some degree of family contact.

"If conjugal visiting ever did happen, it would have to be very closely controlled because there's always someone who tries to abuse the system."

Answer: Quite true. Just as there's always someone in the most exclusive golf course, or in the most professional hockey team, who 'tries to abuse the system.' However, there are rules to deal with the culprit. The entire golf course is not shut down, nor is the entire hockey team banned from playing forever. In the same way, any prisoner who 'abuses the system' can be dealt with accordingly, and it need not be used as an excuse to shut down the entire program.

In other words, despite the sincere intention of the majority of prisoners to abide by family visiting regulations, they should not be penalized if and when one of their numbers violates the rules. In fact, this would be an appropriate occasion to end group reprisals altogether - a practice so dearly beloved by administrations.

We now come to the crux of the matter. When the Commissioner and the Solicitor-General speak out in favour of a 'conjugal visit program, predicting that it should begin in 1980', but, when other senior officials publicly oppose the same principle, are we being treated to the 'Big Lie' technique - - headlines, interviews, proposed plans, all to provide the system with the desired good image, while behind this gratuitous publicity the real miseries continue - - men are still being held shackled in solitary confinement (Kent), or slashing up in a group suicide attempt and then being gassed (Laval), and women still being dragged naked,by a male guard, to the old cow barn (Oakalla); forced transfers are still scooping up unwilling prisoners to move them from one end of the country to the other; adequate medical attention is still more a 'happening' than a guarantee; and throughout all this, the concept of "openness and accountability" remains a myth.

Conjugal visits - properly called extended private family visits, for both male and female prisoners, would be much appreciated. However, short, flat sentences (eliminating parole procedures entirely) and genuine access between prisoners and concerned citizens would represent far more meaningful progress in the Canadian prison system.

While the situation in Iran continues to shock the world - both the hostage-taking and the reasons for it - it came as a surprise to read that " ... wives are allowed to visit their husbands at Tehran's notorious Evin prison so that prisoners can satisfy 'their spiritual and sexual needs in complete privacy", AND "the 18 women held at Evin can also receive similar visits from their husbands."
(Vancouver Sun, June 25/80).

Claire Culhane,
for: Prisoners' Rights Group (PRG)
3965 Pandora, Burnaby, B.C.

28 June 1980.

Since the last election, I have waited to see the Nazi war criminals hiding in Canada arrested. It hasn't happened yet. But then, our own State Police haven't been arrested for their admitted crimes either. For that I give much thanks. I wouldn't want either type celling near me.

THE MANDATORY SYSTEM

Well, I'm back in the confines of Millhaven Penitentiary again, thanks to the mandatory parole system. I'll be here for another year at a cost of roughly $20,000 via our overly generous taxpayers and then go out on another mandatory sentence whereby our money - laiden taxpayers - can again pay for my supervision and pay again for any maintainence when I'm returned again because I'm sure not going to obey any rules while I'm on mandatory parole. Why should I? I earned my good time and the right to be released.

Is mine an isolated case or a rarity? Hardly. Since the inception of mandatory parole, literally hundreds and thousands of prisoners have been released to finish at an enormous cost to the taxpaying public.

Is there an alternative or a solution to this problem? There certainly is and it's so simple I can't understand why the experts in Ottawa (Justice Department specifically) haven't thought of it. Instead of wringing their hands and moaning about the money being spent, why don't they revert back to the original way of things in the penitentiary system?

Years ago a man sentenced to a specific number of years could make a parole after 1/3 of his sentence. If he didn't make his parole, he could continue to earn good time and be released after 2/3 of his sentence. Nowdays a man can still make a parole after 1/3 of his sentence but after 2/3, his earned remission goes for naught. He is released on mandatory supervision and returned at the whim of his parole officer.

What happens then? He can do anything he wants in prison and have no fear of losing any good time because he is now doing it. The more good time he loses, the less he has to spend on supervision. Is there any wonder the prisons are in the deplorable state they're in? Contrary to what some people may think, a person does <u>not</u> want to lose good time. He wants to pay off his 'debt to society' as quickly as he can and be released with no strings

attached.

Since mandatory parole has been introduced, has it been successful? The answer, of course, is NO and that's not just my opinion. Ask anyone in the penitentiary system and they'll tell you the same. It has brought nothing but chaos. At least under the old system the deterrent of losing good time was taken into consideration. Now the threat of taking good time is laughable.

Will the present system ever be abolished? It's doubtful. As long as parole supervisors are making good money for not working they don't want to see it end. Otherwise they might have to find jobs that entail work. Ottawa doesn't want to see it end. The more prisoners, the more prisons they can build. After all, it isn't their money. It's the taxpayers! The apathetic public don't care, they're so affluent they just shell out their tax dollars with no questions asked.

Ah well, I get out again next year. I'll pick up another suit, probably get returned once more and I'll pick up my 3rd suit on the same 4 year sentence. Come to think of it, this system isn't all that bad. If I get returned enough times, I'll be able to open my own clothing store.

Doug Todd

Without freedom for the men in S.H.U., there can be no freedom for anyone. They are the symbol of the oppressed and as such symbolize the oppression of everyone. Any man or woman who does not demand freedom for S.H.U. accepts his or her own slavery.

MAJOR COURT

I was pretty sure I'd beat this one. The guys all said I would; that it was a sure thing, I had nothing to worry about.

I waited in the make-shift waiting area by the canteen with the others also awaiting their almost certain fate. One fellow was charged with having curtains for his cell and another waited silently, nervously clutching a small bag, his worldly possessions that would accompany him to the digger. Rumour had it that one notorious bandit was also to appear with us but was still at large; he was charged with lurking with intent to loiter.

The charge was evidently serious to the institution, as they termed it as 'major' and even sent me to what is termed as 'major court' with my very contentious case.

Hmmmm... I thought to myself. Impartial judge, Highest court, no real evidence, justice will prevail, sure to beat... sounds damn familiar to me. In here the guys call me a square John but out there I guess I'm called a few other things. If nothing else, this one prison experience was another rude eye opener. Anyway, back to my story.

I bumbled into the courtroom with palms just a sweating and for the thousanth' time reviewing my defence in my head.

"How do you plead to this charge of possession of contraband?" Well ya see, the facts are right on everything but I figger I ain't at all guilty!" Said I as nonchalantly as possible.

"In that case, the court will enter a plea of 'not

guilty' for you." "Why thanks" (I figured that was downright decent of the fellow).

Since the judge sensed my nervous behaviour, (some call it paranoia) I felt somewhat compelled to explain further. "Well, ya see, I only been in court once before and they gimmie life and tole me it'd be twenty five years before I could ask ta go home ... maybe." I guessed that the judge would understand.

While I had the floor or so it seemed, it also appeared to ask whether the charge would remain on my record if I were to get aquitted. After the laughter had subsided, the judge just said "yup." (Probably a mistake huh, but I didn't push the issue). He (the judge) explained that the courts' only witness was not present, at least not at this time.

I (the accused) explained that the description of the offense was pretty well true to my knowledge, however, I disputed the fact that the sinister item found in my cell was in fact contraband. Also, I emphasized that the item had been there for at least six months, then I said ½ of one year, real dramatically so he'd catch the play. It cut no ice. I figured too, that these folks would really appreciate a vocabulary of big words but I couldn't fit cucumber, marmalade, or toboggan into the blasted conversation.

Feeling that justice would be done (just like in the movies), I proceeded to explain in the most persuading way that I possibly could, how it was that I came to be in possession of a small lead disc, that I used in my petit point hobby and that my intentions always

were strictly honorable. The court was told that numerous everyday items in a man's cell, for example, a couple of bars of soap in a sock could perhaps, be considered a dangerous weapon, but in themselves these items were harmless. Well, by golly, the judge agreed and I felt that this was a good omen. It almost looked like these folks were pretty reasonable after all.

When the hobbycraft officer came into court to testify on my behalfand backed up my story, I felt that I would either get (1) an apology, (2) my piece of lead back,or(3) a full parole. With any luck at all, all three. No dice.

The impartial judge figured that I was in fact, in possession of contraband and he gave me sixty days to straighten out my act. I'd do about a dime in the digger if I got another charge within the next sixty days. I wasn't sure if that was pending a charge or a conviction, but I guess it's sort of the same thing.
Then a strange thing happened. The judge started to discuss what to do with the piece of lead and the general opinion was that it would be given back to me....THE CONTRABAND! Then he bumped hep when he saw my jaw drop to around my knees. I couldn't believe my ears.

I left the courtroom somewhat dismayed at the sad fact that this court wasn't much different than the street court. In fact, I was more miserable than a woodpecker with a bad old headache, at the fact that my virgin record was now blemished for eternity. Sure hope it don't have much of an effect on my parole.

Jimmy Conroy

CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR

The term 'criminal behaviour' would imply 'that behaviour' which is defined by law to be criminal. This, of course, does not mean that all behaviour not forbidden by law is acceptable behaviour. I'm sure we can think of behaviour that is defined as 'criminal' that need not be against the law such as vagrancy (is there a law against affluence/) Consuming alcohol before one's 18th birthday is criminal; on or after the 18th birthday the same behaviour becomes socially acceptable. Speeding, dealing in drugs and stolen property, physical assault and killing are all defined as criminal behaviour unless committed by a law enforcement officer in the line of duty, i.e. a person disobeying an order to "Halt" can be legally killed even though that person is not presenting a threat to anyone's life.

If you or I were millionaires we could get a grant from the government in order to participate in a hobby or sport in another country, (i.e. Hamilton millionaire gets $15,000 to assist him in the cost of shipping his racing car and crew to France). If we were billionaires we could borrow money at very low interest rates in order to make more money, but if we are poor we either can't borrow money or if we could, we would have to pay top interest rates.

The corporate elite crime is a violation of civil law rather than criminal law even though the profit from their unacceptable behaviour far exceeds those realized by the poor man who engages in unacceptable behaviour to get money from the rich. If found guilty, the corporations are assessed a fine that is but a fraction of the profit made. If the poor person is found guilty, he/she goes to prison and doesn't even get to keep the money gained by his/her unacceptable behaviour.

Those of affluence and power determine what is and what is not criminal behaviour. Laws are designed to protect and serve the interests of the ruling elite.

If a person's behaviour is adjudicated and labelled criminal, he or she becomes the guinea-pigs of study and

research. The theories produced by researchers are numerous. They all try to find the answer as to why some people are criminals.

It's been claimed that criminals are 'different' and the causes have ranged from the astrological to physical, emotional and mental reasons. Scorpios are claimed to be the most violent criminals. Physical characteristics range from an extra Y chromosone, beedy eyes, wide foreheads, eyes below the ear line, and hand creases that go from one end of the palm to the other. Emotional reasons range from inadequate pre-natal care, premature birth, and parental neglect are just a few reasons cited for criminal behaviour. Mental reasons range from genetic to poorly educated.

I'm sure we've all heard reasons why a criminal is a criminal and they all come down to the criminal being "different" from normal people even tho' most every one has at one time or another committed an act that could have resulted in criminal prosecution.

What if the reasons given were actually true? What would be corrective action - lift the ears or lower and widen the eyes? Abstain from sexual activity from January 22nd to February 22nd (no Scorpios be permitted to be born) but what could be done about premature births?

I just finished a book entitled Diet, Crime and Delinquency and I must admit that there is some basis for believing that one's diet can contribute to a person's behaviour. We know that alchohol and drugs can affect behaviour so why couldn't the pollution and synthetics we breath and consume daily have adverse affects on one's behaviour. Lead poisoning, lighting and diet surely must affect the chemistry of the body.

Proper nutrition has been shown to substantually reduce aggressive and hostile behaviour. It's even claimed that alchohol and drug addiction are being cured with impressive results with the use of balanced nutritional diets based on the individual's nutritional deficiencies (80% success

cited for alchoholics). In one test involving 30 heroin addicts it was reported that withdrawl from their addiction was done with only minor discomfort and none of the 30 were reported to relapse to their former addictive state.

The researchers claim that junk foods high in sugar, artificial colouring and flavouring cause severe behavioural problems. Studies show how juvenile delinquents were put on nutritional diets and their anti-social behaviour underwent very impressive alterations. We cannot deny the fact that we consume a great deal of food which has properties in it that are detrimental to a healthy chemistry.

The book does not claim that the urge to rob, plunder and commit violent agression will result every time someone eats a candy bar or drinks a can of soda pop. It was a very interesting book and maybe we should look more closely at behaviour that we don't as yet understand. What have we to lose other than the unprecedented anti-social behaviour that flourishes in our respective societies?

It is still my view that criminality is normal behaviour in an affluent society where the laws give birth to inequities and then uses the coercive force of its legal structure to maintain the status quo.

Last year in Ontario alone there was an average of five children committing suicide every week. These children ranged in age from 8 to 16. How many other children committed social suicide by rebelling against the law and authority? This is not normal behaviour as it would seem to be oriented towards self-destruction. Pollutants and other harmful agents in their daily living could be a major factor in determining the behaviour of some children.

Ronald Van Bree

FOR WHAT PURPOSE

Not being very swift at the best of times, it has taken me many years to try and figure out the logic that seems to send so many young offenders to a maximum security prison. Either the kids are growing up a hell of a lot tougher these days or the media have been telling me one hell of a lot of lies.

According to them, maximum security prisons were designed and built to house Canada's hard core criminals. We're all supposed to be very dangerous individuals. Like the kind that are used by mothers to scare their children. The kind that knock old ladies down for their grocery money as well as rob the odd bank. The real nasty type.

Somehow or other, those descriptions just don't seem to fit the many kids I see in this prison for such crimes as breaking and entering or other such property crimes.

Let's face it, this miserable system of classification just doesn't work. Kids are not segregated from the so called "hard core criminal." They are here at Millhaven and they damn well shouldn't be.

In most cases, these kids are sent here because they have broken some rule, or are suspected of breaking some rule in a medium security prison. Why? There is nothing in Millhaven's rule book that isn't in the rule books of medium security prisons.

Millhaven has a very tough image. Whether it is deserved or not doesn't really matter. What does matter is that these kids believe it and believe they must live up to that image. It is not a very healthy environment for them.

Reformation is supposed to be the name of the game not training teenagers to be tough guys. Not only should it be stopped, but must be stopped.

Let medium security prisons look after their own problems of a disciplinary nature. They have the tools.

Tommy Smith

SUIT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

On February 25, 1980, five women inmates at the North Carolina Correctional Center for Women (N.C.C.C.W.) filed a discrimination suit in Federal Court against the State of North Carolina, Department of Corrections.

The women, Karen Batton, Kathy Stokes, Linda Stokes, Terry Hamm, and Kathy Jones have asked for equal rights and opportunities of the male prisoners of North Carolina.

The North Carolina Correctional Center for Women, located in Raleigh, N.C., houses at average 600 inmates. However, the prison was designed to house only 250 to 300 inmates.

Of 82 prison units in the State of North Carolina, only two (2) of these units house female inmates. One of these units, Cameron Morrison Youth Center (C.M.Y.C.), is for youthful offenders and also houses male inmates. N.C.C.C.W. is the only prison unit in N.C. that houses females only.

Male inmates in N.C. are housed according to custody grade, crime status and age. The female inmates, with the exception of youthful offenders, are housed together at N.C.C.C.W. without regard to custody grade, crime status or age.

Male prisoners, spread all over N.C., have greater access to work release opportunities, employment, parole and access to their own families and legal counsel. The women at N.C.C.C.W. may only seek work release in the Raleigh area. Therefore, the women have limited access to employment, parole, legal counsel and their families as a result of their placement in N.C.C.C.W.

Male prisoners who apply for work release are screened by professional staff. The women at N.C.C.C.W. were screened by a Roman Catholic nun until recently, who was not qualified by education, training or experience to supervise a prisoner's work release application.

Since 1972, Central Prison, a male-only maximum security unit in N.C., has provided an in-patient medical and

psychiatric hospital for male inmates. This facility is fully staffed by physicians, psychologists, registered and licensed practical nurses and other professional staff on a full time basis. The women at N.C.C.C.W. have no in-patient medical and psychiatric hospital unit supervised full time by professional staff.

Around January 1, 1980, an in-patient facility for the treatment of psychiatric patients was completed. However, due to being understaffed no one is allowed to become an in-patient. When the mental patients of N.C.C.C.W. become a nuisance, they are housed in Dorm C, a segregation building at the women's prison.

Male prisoners have a broad range of training programs to use upon their release. The North Carolina Correctional Center women are encouraged to do female role stereo-type jobs. Only three (3) marketable skills are available; cosmetology, upholstery, and secretarial science. In order to enroll in cosmetology or upholstery you have to be a year away from parole and you need to know basic typing to enroll in secretarial science. What about the long termers and the ambitious woman?

The discrimination suit was also filed to eliminate the denial of civil rights and to improve the treatment and conditions at N.C.C.C.W.

Kenneth Harris, Superintendent and Correctional Administrator of N.C.C.C.W. lacks the educational background, training, experience and demeanor to manage the women's prison or to protect and respect the rights, privileges, and immunities of the women prisoners.

Because of the pressing population at N.C.C.C.W., reception for the new arrivals is often full and forces the newcomers to be housed in Dorm C, the segregation unit. This is especially true from November to February of each year.

The dining hall at N.C.C.C.W. is infested with rats and roaches. Therefore maintaining an unsanitary facility for the preparation and storage of food.

The matrons and guards at the North Carolina Correctional Center for Women are inadequately trained. Many new staff members receive on the job training on 3rd shift while the population of inmates are sleeping. When their shift is transferred, they are considered "trained to handle the management of the inmate population, to recognize health and psychiatric problems and to cope with the emotional needs of the incarcerated.

The five women plaintiffs have asked for relief in:

(1) An immediate preliminary hearing;

(2) A protective order prohibiting defendants from continuing to harrass and intimidate plaintiffs and denying them adequate access to counsel during the pendency of this suit;

(3) To institute equal practices and programs for female prisoners with those of the male prisoners;

(4) An injunction prohibiting Defendant Harris from serving in the capacity of Correctional Administrator;

(5) An award to Plaintiffs and their class of reasonable attorney fees and costs and such additional and alternative relief as may be just and proper.

Suit Part II

Kathy Stokes and Karen Batton, plaintiffs in the discrimination suit, are housed in the segregation unit.

Kathy Stokes was put in segregation on June 27, 1979, for escape. The Director's Sub-Committee (DSC) board decided in July Kathy should remain in segregation. The D.S.C. board gave her a six (6) month review for January 1980.

Karen Batton was put in segregation on September 19, 1979, for escape. In October, the D.S.C. board concluded Karen should remain in the segregation unit and gave her a six (6) month review for May 1980.

In January 1980, Karen was given an early review date and was scheduled to meet the board with Kathy on January 25th.

Kathy and Karen's release from segregation were denied. Kathy was scheduled to meet the board again in July. Karen was scheduled to see them in May, her original review date

In May, Kathy's review was shortened so she could meet the D.S.C. with Karen.

On May 19th, 1980, Kathy and Karen's release were again denied. Both women were scheduled to meet the Director's Sub-Committee board in November 1980. Their release is not guaranteed then.

The Director's Sub-Committee board is a board from downtown consisting of five (5) members. This board is supplied with recommendations from Superintendant Harris for each woman scheduled to be seen by them.

Kathy has been in segregation for thirteen (13) months and Karen for ten (10) months. Neither Kathy nor Karen have been given any opportunities to prove they are not escape risks.

Kathy and Karen are allowed one (1) hour of exercise daily in a small fenced in area. The remaining hours are spent

in their 9 X 12 ft. cells.

Terry Hamm, also a plaintiff in the suit, was suddenly transferred to Cameron Morrison Youth Center on May 12, 1980, after the February filing of the suit.

Terry was shipped away from her family, who live in Raleigh, North Carolina, to a strange institution. Was Terry removed from N.C.C.C.W. in an attempt to get her to withdraw from the discrimination suit against the Department of Corrections?

Superintendents Harris and McDade had threatened to take punitive measures against the plaintiffs for violating orders not to discuss prison conditions with their counsel, Were these the punitive measures?

Submitted by

Karen Batton

The perfect revolution will see the revolutionaries destroy their own leaders after overthrowing the existing government. Anything less than that is only trading one group of masters for another. Had the anarchists destroyed Lenin and his mob, the Soviet Union might have become a pleasant place in which to live.

SYSTEMS IN THE NETHERLANDS

In recent months there has been a great deal of reference being made regarding the prison system in the Netherlands. I wrote the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Ottawa and within a week a package of information was delivered to my cell. The package contained information on the Constitution, the justice and prison systems, along with various reports from the Benelux Penitentiary Committee. The information I obtained covers their systems up to and including the years from 1970-1977. Here are some of the facts and general data of what the justice and prison systems are like in the Netherlands.

The Netherlands covers an area of 15,830 square miles (Nova Scotia has an area of 21,425 sq.miles) and in 1977 there was almost 14 million population. There is no jury system, an accused individual is tried before one judge if the charge is minor and three judges if the charge is a serious felony; appeal courts have five judges. In reading about their judicial system one does not get the impression that the courtroom is used as a playground of manipulation or hollywood dramatics we so often witness in Canadian courts as defence and crown attorneys 'perform' for jurists and juries attention and favour.

A person under the age of majority (18 years of age) may be tried in adult court if the crime is considered to be serious. Capital Punishment was abolished in 1870. The Netherlands will not allow any country in the world to extradict a Dutch citizen for any crime that carries the maximum penalty of death for that particular crime. Prison sentences under 4 months are considered 'short term'; over 4 months is considered 'long term'. Of those convicted and sent to prison 3.2% receive sentences longer than 1 year. The average time spent in prison is 35 days.
In 1951 the Prison act was passed; the rules of the prison are structured to protect the rights of the prisoner. The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules

for the Treatment of Prisoners is applicable in the Dutch Prison System. Their philosophy is if individuals must be detained by the state then it must be in a manner that is socially-oriented, giving the optimal reassimulation of the society a prisoner must one day be released to. The cell system is being done away with, prisoners are permitted to wear their own clothing and personal jewellery in order to maintain their individual personality; cencorship of mail and prison publications has been abolished. There are no conjugal visiting as prisoners are not incarcerated for lengthy periods of time and the leave of absence program is encouraged. Prison sentences are seldom longer than 4 years. There are 19 prisons in Holland,housing 900 prisoners(10 female prisoners). There is a total of 3,900 prison service staff. The main criteria for obtaining employment in the prison system is physchological testing to determine if the applicant is stable and suitable to work in prison and the performance of staff is continuously compared to the origional test results. A staff member may remain a security guard for a period not exceeding 4 years before required to work in other areas of the system. In 1975 there was a total of 425 perimeter security guards in all of Netherlands prison system. There is a total of about 23,800 men strong in the combined municipal,state,and international police forces.

It is certainly not my intent to glorify or praise any prison system,but I do find the comparison of the Canadian Justice and Prison system to its counterpart in the Netherlands very interesting and thought provoking. I am 'Dutch' desent so I naturally wonder if I would have spent 15 years in prison out of the last 21 years if I had been born and raised there.

One thing is for sure. I wouldn't be sitting in Canada's pride and joy....MILLHAVEN!!!! I'd only hear about the horror and insult it is to humanity.

Ron VanBree

MANDATORY SUPERVISION

If ever a law was destined to promote crime and fill prisons, it was the Mandatory Supervision of the 1970 Parole Act. It has filled our prisons, made a major contribution to violent crime, and has been responsible for more than a few deaths. All of this and more in the name of rehabilitation.

For those not familiar with Mandatory Supervision, it is a form of parole a person must serve after he or she has completed his or her sentence. All earned remission is served on parole. Prisoners feel that earned remission, or good time, is time they have earned through their conduct and work while in prison. Good time always was and always will be used by the authorities as a weapon to force prisoners to conform to prison rules. It has benefitted the authorities one hell of a lot more than it has prisoners.

Prior to 1970, a prisoner that finished his or her sentence was free. They left prison to live where and how they felt like living. If they were returning to crime, too bad. They were returned to prison if and when they were found out. It usually didn't take too long. The only thing they had to answer for was a clear violation of the law.

At that time Canada's legitimate Parole Act had been in existence for over a decade and had what appeared to be a phenominal success rate. Approximately fifteen per cent of parolees were returned to prison. A number of those were returned without having been convicted of a further crime. The recidivism rate for non-parolees was approximatel seventy-five per cent. All of these had been convicted of a further crime.

With those figures, it was only natural that the authorities would want everyone released on parole. By first appearances, parole was a wonder drug that would defeat crime. Some of Canada's top brains then sat down and

figured out a scheme that would place everyone on parole. Needless to say, it didn't have near the results they sought. It would soon prove itself to promote serious crime rather than prevent it.

On second look, parole itself was never the wonder drug claimed by its supporters. Not only were the prisoners selected for parole screened very well, but the crimes they had committed also entered into the decision for granting parole. The very few people granted parole were those who were most likely to be successful whether they were given parole or not.

However, parole itself was seen as a very successful phenomena. People given parole seldom violated it. The key word there is given. A prisoner released on parole was given something. They were very select people. Contrary to the inflated figures released by the Parole Service, very few prisoners were ever granted a full parole. They were granted what was called a minimum parole. If a prisoner was foolish enough to accept one, it consisted of thirty days for each year served up to a maximum of six months. They were given a maximum of six months. If they violated it, they were returned to prison to serve out all of the earned remission they had to their credit before taking parole.

Other prisoners might be granted a year or two on a very long sentence. The average prisoner had absolutely no hope of being granted a parole and still hasn't. The ex-prisoners arrested for violent crimes while on parole are serving Mandatory Supervision. Not a real parole in any accepted sense of the word.

They are people who have already been rejected by the parole service. They must leave prison knowing that a parole employee, who didn't want any part of him in the first place, is going to send him back to prison. He is the rejected. Regular parolees will get help with their problems; he will get obstructions. He will be told to get a job or else.

So what? Prime Minister Trudeau says everyone can be employed if they want to be. All they have to do is travel to where the work is. If there is no work in Ontario, go to Alberta. Fine, as long as you are not under Mandatory Supervision. Leaving your place of residence is a clear violation of that supervision . Leave to find work and you'll be jailed.

Prior to the Mandatory Supervision Act, a person faced with no job and no income would sometimes turn to victimless crimes in order to live. They would turn to bootlegging, bookmaking, running lotteries, or any other minor scam they could think of that wouldn't send them back to the penitentiary. Boosting and paper-hanging were also popular. Anything that would carry a small sentence if they were arrested. They already had enough of penitentiaries. They don't want to return.

Those alternatives are no longer open to an ex-prisoner. With Mandatory Supervision, they don't even have to be convicted of a crime to be returned to prison. All the parole employee has to do is suspect him of it.

A man forced into that position is a desparate man. Because he is an ex-prisoner, jobs are hard to come by. The Parole Service will not help him find a job; they will only tell him to get one or else. If he has no legitimate income, he must starve. No one is going to feed him and he must account for every penny he has or go back to prison. With the cards stacked against him before he even leaves prison, he knows he is coming back.

When a man is through with prison; when he knows he cannot do any more time, and at the same time knows the authorities have made it inevetable that he return to prison, what does he do? He might think he can beat the odds and plan to go straight. He may even look for a job until the little money he left prison with is gone and he gets the order to "either find work or else."

The Blacks in the United States, when faced with that dilemma, said "burn baby burn." Canada's ex-prisoners have said "die bastard die. If you want me in prison,

you put me there." He really doesn't want to kill and he doesn't want to return to prison. Either consiously or unconsiously, he wants to commit suicide. Society has willed that he go out. He is picking his own way.

Just like night follows day, a prisoner leaving prison knowing he almost has to return is going to be a very resentful person. Even if he doesn't pick up the gun, the resentment in him is going to be too strong for any social worker to overcome. He is not a child to be instructed on the better ways of life. He is a man who has already been brutalized by everything a vindictive society could throw at him. He has faced a judge who has tripled his sentence because of the possibility of parole and he never made one. He has served his sentence. Unlike the judge that sentenced him, he always knew he would. There are no more paroles.

Mandatory Supervision has used up all of the resourses of the Parole service so that legitimate paroles, always hard to make, are now impossible for all but the very select few that have some type of influence on the street.

The law, the penitentiary service, the parole service, and every other service that lives off of the avails of crime have stacked the cards against him and he resents it. He is owned by the very people he hates. They have placed him on a never ending cycle and there is nothing on this earth that he can do to get off of it.

So what are the benefits of Mandatory Supervision? Probably none. Anyone the Parole Service believes they have helped under Mandatory Supervision, should have been given a regular parole in the first place, and may well have if the Parole Service wasn't so overextended with Mandatory Supervision.

What are the negative aspects of Mandatory Supervision? Several. Canada likes to weigh everything in dollars and cents. Mandatory Supervision costs millions of dollars and offers absolutely no return on the money spent. It buys a worse than useless service.

For those who like to weigh social services from a moral

rather than a monetary point of view, there are several reasons for abolishing Mandatory Supervision. The first, at least from the prisoner's view, is the deceit it involves. He must do slave labour while in prison and obey all rules in order to earn his remission. After he has served his sentence under those terms, he finds out he hasn't really earned anything. It will be taken away from him by a parole employee.

He may as well have spent his time in prison tearing the prison down. The prisoners who are not so naive probably are already. It is interesting to note that Mandatory Supervision came into effect in August 1970, and the Kingston Riot went down less than a year later. The other maximum security prisons have continued to go down ever since.

Other negative results have already been noted. Very resentful prisoners are leaving prison with no hope of staying out. They not only resent the fact that they are not leaving as free men, but are going to be forced to return to prison whether they commit further crimes or not. They must return to prison for even the least suspicion of being involved in what his parole officer might think is an immoral act whether that act is a crime or not. His answer to that is "If I'm going back anyway, why not make **it big**? "

Other prisoners have reached their end. They have used up all of their energies or whatever it takes to serve the sentence they had. They have nothing left. Any sentence to them is a death sentence. They would rather kill or be killed than return to prison. They know Mandatory Supervision will send them back, Ergo pick up the gun.

It should be noted that none of this need be true. As long as the ex-prisoner believes it is, the results are the same. So far, nothing he has ever seen has alterred those beliefs. On the contrary, every thing he has ever seen has only confirmed them. Every prisoner he has seen returning to prison, every parolee he reads is charged with murder, or is shot down by the police reinforces those beliefs.

Those are some of the negative results of Mandatory Supervision as seen by the prisoner. The negative product for society is the very resentful, desparate ex-prisoner released into their midst. The fact that some citizens have, and more will die because a person would rather kill or be killed than return to prison.

Even without anyone being killed, society must pay for the more serious crimes committed by people who feel they have nothing to lose. Society must pay for keeping people in prison who never intended to, nor did commit a further crime after their initial release from prison. Society must pay for the destruction of prison property by men with absolutely nothing to lose.

Mandatory Supervision has proven itself to be of no benefit to anyone. It has drained off all of the resources that could have been used for a meaningful parole system. Even the Nation's greatest optimist would be very hard put to find any positive results derived from Mandatory Supervision since its inception a decade ago.

Fortunately, at least from a prisoner's point of view, he is not the only person suffering from it. When society wakes up and discovers that they are now, and will continue to be victims of Mandatory Supervision as well as the prisoner, they will demand it be abolished. Mandatory Supervision has proven itself to be one monster that cannot be dressed up and promoted under the guize of rehabilitation. It is out there on the street for every thinking person to see rather than locked up behind a prison wall.

It has proven itself to be a peril that tares at the very fabric of society and should be and must be repealled.

Tommy Smith

STARRY NIGHTS

A million twinkling stars...
What are they?
Do not question everything.
Accept with love what it is
 that surrounds you.
Everything does not have an explanation.
Just live and love and believe
 in the beauty and system of the universe.
All its majesty is there for you to behold.
A lone wispy cloud blows across
 the Pleiades.
The seven daughters of Atlas
Maia, Electra, Celaeno, Taygeta, Merope,
 Alcyone and Sterope...they understand.
Look to Taurus
And you will see their grace and beauty.
Life really is everything the poets write about.
Later, when you can again watch the starry
 skies at night Eddie,
You'll know only its beauty,
And your soul will relax,
Knowing you're safe again,
Away from...them.
All that matters, for you or me
Is that starry firmament.

Written for Eddie McCaffrey, S.H.U.

By Anne McCaffrey.

April 30, 1979.

ONE LIFE TO LIVE

I have never known the beauty,
Of a pure and snowy dove.
Nor have I known the wonder,
Of the caribou in rut.
And yet, I know,
I have a gift,
For I have yet,
One life to live.

I may never know the peace,
Of a morning on a lake.
I might never know the saddest song;
A forest in the rain.
And yet I know,
I have a gift.
For I have yet,
One life to live.

DEATH

Death, tho we walk hand in hand,
I do not fear you.
For you can never take me,
Until my time is up.

Death, tho we walk side by side,
I do not call you friend.
For I know that you may never,
Call a man your friend.

Yea death, tho we walk arm and arm,
I do not fear you.
For I know you'll do me no harm,
And I'll join you when all is done.

Yea death, tho we share a common goal,
I shall not welcome you.
For I have yet to live,
And never wish to die.

Dan Fannon

AS ONE

For Harry Lewis

From within cells
That stand facing each other
Like tombs,
We rapped away the lonely hours
Finding one another's beauty
Hidden within self-made defenses
Of embittered anger;
We shared the inner mysteries
Of time weary lonely souls
To discover lost universes within,
Freeing us from physical prisons
To roam together as one,
Unhampered by society's laws;
The chains of mortal bondage broken,
Thrown to the elements,
Leaving behind,
Only a whisper
Of cynical laughter.

Fred Jo Morry

.....

Matsqui 79

Walls
Soaked with time,
Not of age,
But of lost dreams
And
Strangled half thoughts
Buried in boredom,
Leaving faceless people
Staring through
Blind eyes
At their self-made
Degradation

Fred Jo Morry

'THE NIGHT'

Nov., 1968
Oakalla SW.

I lie on my bunk
Watching the night,
Shadows on cold cement walls
From the light.

I listen to the sounds
in the darkness,
A train whistle blows
bringing back the starkness.

The guard makes his rounds
every hour or two,
And the sound of his keys
On steel bars rings true.

My mind wanders off
To peace and Tranquility,
Til i think of my Family
And all their gullibility.

I light a smoke
And watch the soft red glow,
As I wonder just how long
before my cool i blow.

i think of the years
i'm gonna have to spend,
in cells just like this
And wonder will i bend?

Will i change in any way?
Will my pride i lose?
Or will i still be myself
And be able to choose.

Fred Jo Morry

All these things i think
And wonder about,
And sometimes it gets
so i could just shout.

But i lie on my bunk
watching the night,
And pray to the God's
For the strength and the might.

Will my kids remember me
by the time i get out?
Will Janet be well?
Or will her life be snuffed out?

Freddie Jo Morry

'IN THE NIGHT'

May 23/80 Kent B.C.

Sometimes
in the night
lonliness calls
and prisoners
weep,
No one hears
or sees
Their pain,
cell walls
hide Them
From Sight,
And pillows
soften
cries
in the night.

Freddie Jo Morry

A poet i wasn't
cut out to be,
but how else
can i make you see.

Inside these prisons
To the prisoners' plight,
These fellow humans
And their daily Fright.

Our way of life
you must correct,
And so you Take
Our Self-Respect.

Rehabilitation!
is your cry,
Then The Means
To us you deny.

The Truth i Know
You refuse to see,
but one day Remember
'We will be Free.'

Then you'll wish
You'd listened to my plea,
For we'll be the ANIMALS
"You," created us to be.

Freddie Jo Morry

A Teardrop Fell
As i called your name
but this time
You Never Came.

Freddie Jo Morry

BRAINWASHED

March 6/80, Kent B.C.

Thoughts
Move sluggishly
Through
programmed minds
of what
Where once
Free Thinking
human beings,
indoctranated
into the
prison systems
psychological
brain-washing
program,
becoming
inmates
No longer
able to
Find the Will
or the energy
To Fight Against
A system
Of Inhumane Tactics
Mentally Whipping
prisoners
until-
They become
beaten men
And Women
Who
have Forgotten
The Meaning
of Pride
And Self-Respect.

Freddie Jo Morry

'P. S.'

May 23/80, Kent B.C.

Words
Of Injustice
Flow Out
From My Mind,
A race
To Reach My Pen
before
The system
Sets up
it's barricades
sealing
Them Off
Then
Moving Them
in shackles
From one cell
To Another
Until...
They become
Strangers
even To Themselves.

Jan 3/73

Try and see
who you are
here and now,
before looking back
At what you were,
or ahead to what
you might be.

Freddie Jo Morry

ALWAYS HAVE A DREAM

Always have a dream
Forget about the days
When it's been cloudy
But don't forget the hours in the sun

Forget about the times
You've been defeated,
But don't forget the lessons that you've learned
Forget about misfortunes
You've encountered
But don't forget the times
Your luck has turned
Forget about the days
When you've been lonely,
But don't forget
The friendly smiles you've seen...
Forget about the plans
That didn't seem to work out right,
But don't forget to always have a dream.

May every dream
you're having
Every hope and plan
Come true,
And may every day
Begin and end
With happiness for you!

Micheal Enright

(Maplecrest Correctional Centre)

I REMEMBER MEN

I remember
Men
who walked
with
Pride,
Self-Respect
Flowed
in All
Who paced
These cells,
gone now
To Freedom
Through
deaths
Many doors.
And
Their cells
drip disgust
At
The cringing
parasites
who now
crawl
Their floors
Sniveling
Their
Time Away.

Freddie Jo Morry

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